WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method, comprising:

inputting pixel data of an image;

performing block selection processing on the pixel data to determine types of pixels within the image;

determining, based on the block selection processing, if a pixel is in an object area of the image; and

detecting proximity of an edge to the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the inputting step comprises:

a pre-scanning step to input pixel data of a first resolution; and

a scanning step to input pixel data of a second resolution, the second resolution higher than the first resolution,

wherein the block selection processing is performed on the pixel data of the first resolution, and

wherein the detecting is performed on the pixel data of the second resolution.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the detecting step further comprises detecting a thickness of a character including the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

4. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the detecting step further comprises detecting chromaticity of the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

5. Processor-executable process steps stored on a processor-readable medium, the process steps comprising:

an inputting step to input pixel data of an image;

a performing step to perform block selection processing on the pixel data to determine types of pixels within the image;

a determining step to determine, based on the block selection processing, if a pixel is in an object area of the image; and

a detecting step to detect proximity of an edge to the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

6. Processor-executable process steps according to Claim 5, wherein the step of inputting comprises:

a pre-scanning step to input pixel data of a first resolution; and

a scanning step to input pixel data of a second resolution, the second resolution higher than the first resolution,

wherein the block selection processing is performed on the pixel data of the first resolution, and

wherein the detecting is performed on the pixel data of the second resolution.

7. Processor-executable process steps according to Claim 6, wherein the step of detecting further comprises a detecting step to detect a thickness of a character including the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

8. Processor-executable process steps according to Claim 6, wherein the detecting step further comprises a detecting step to detect chromaticity of the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

9. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

means for inputting pixel data of an image;

means for performing block selection processing on the pixel data to determine types of pixels within the image;

means for determining, based on the block selection processing, if a pixel is in an object area of the image; and

means for detecting proximity of an edge to the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the means for inputting comprises:

means for pre-scanning input pixel data of a first resolution; and

means for scanning pixel data of a second resolution, the second resolution higher than the first resolution,

wherein the block selection processing is performed on the pixel data of the first resolution, and

wherein the detecting is performed on the pixel data of the second resolution.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the means for detecting further comprises means for detecting a thickness of a character including the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the means for detecting further comprises detecting chromaticity of the pixel if the pixel is determined to be in an object area of the image.